

Mayor Tomás P. Regalado

*Chairman Wilfredo (Willy) Gort
Vice-Chairman Frank Carollo
Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones
Commissioner Marc Sarnoff
Commissioner Francis Suarez
City Manager Johnny Martinez, P.E.*



2011

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*Angel Zayón
Chief of Communications*

communications@miamigov.com

Mayor Tomas Regalado and Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones Hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Miami River of Life, Georgia Jones Ayers Transitional Building Facility

City of Miami Helps Rehabilitate Liberty City Building for Youth in Need

(Miami, FL December 16, 2011) — City of Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado and City Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, District 5, will join George Mensah, Director of the Department of Community Development, the Liberty City Community Revitalization Trust, George Ellis, Executive Director of Miami's River of Life, Inc., and Ms. Georgia Ayers, Alternative Programs, Inc., on **Wednesday, December 21, 2011, 11:00 a.m.** to celebrate the completion of rehabilitation work at **1371 NW 61 St.** in Liberty City, on the **Miami's River of Life Building, Georgia Jones Ayers Transitional Living Facility.** The building's rehabilitation was made possible with \$224,950 in funding from the City of Miami's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) with renovations including roof replacement, new windows, bathrooms, and flooring, new electrical and plumbing systems, and interior and exterior painting.

As part of the *Fresh Start Initiative* spearheaded by Commissioner Spence-Jones, six female youth will move into the renovated, affordable building in Liberty City which will now serve as supportive housing for youth (ages 16-21 years of age) transitioning out of the state's foster care system and in need of temporary housing for a three- to nine-month period. The property will be managed by Miami's River of Life, Inc., a not-for-profit organization which assists in the care, protection and progress of thousands of youth in Florida's Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, and other child protection systems. Miami's River of Life, Inc., will also offer supportive services to the building's residents.

The City of Miami AHTF was established to receive financial contributions from private developers who desire to take advantage of bonus provisions allowed in the zoning code, in exchange for financial contributions to the

fund. The AHTF is used to meet the housing needs of the community and for housing programs.

Community partner **El Dorado Furniture** donated furnishings for the units, while the **Kiwanis Club of Little Havana** extended financial donations to individually assist all of the young women moving into the building. For additional information on Miami's River of Life, please call 305-756-6587.

WHO: City of Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado
City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, District 5
George Mensah, Director, City of Miami Department of Community Development
Elaine Black, Liberty City Community Revitalization Trust
George Ellis, Executive Director of Miami's River of Life, Inc. and the Board of Directors of Miami's River of Life
Ms. Georgia Ayers, Alternative Programs, Inc.

WHAT: Will gather for the ribbon-cutting commemorating the grand opening of a renovated six-unit building in Liberty City that will offer supportive housing to female youth transitioning out of the state's foster care system.

WHEN: December 21, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: 1371 NW 61 St.

BEFORE



AFTER



Angel Zayon
Approved
azayon@miamigov.com